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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,834	03/24/2004	Jerome J. Kukor	744-20 CON/RCE/CON	4324
23869	7590	12/15/2004	EXAMINER	
HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP 6900 JERICHO TURNPIKE SYOSSET, NY 11791			MITCHELL, KATHERINE W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3677

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/807,834

Applicant(s)

KUKOR ET AL.

Examiner

Katherine W. Mitchell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2004.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on NONE is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/10/2004.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The IDS filed in July has been scanned into the file and considered.

Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1-53 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2 and 4-53 of U.S. Patent No. 6746180. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because:

Regarding claim 1: the newly-submitted independent claim 1 is identical to claim 1 of US 6746180 except the newly-submitted independent claim 1:

- requires that the chemical oxidation step is subsequent to the bioremediation step.

Claim 2 of US 6746180 discloses that the order of bioremediation and chemical oxidation steps can include bioremediation followed by chemical oxidation.

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- requires at least one of a group of species, while US 6746180 claims at least two of the same group of species. "At least two" includes "at least one".
- Includes that the bioremediation comprises a microbial consortium, while US 6746180 claims the narrower "living, exogenous microbial consortium". The narrower US 6746180's "living, exogenous microbial consortium" would encompass the pending claim limitation.

Regarding Claims 2-3 of the pending application: They recite the same limitation (neutral pH) as claim 1, adding only a specific motivation for the neutral pH, and thus provide no further patentable limitations.

The correlation of the claims is summarized below:

Claim # pending in 10/807834	Claim # in US 6746180
1	1-2
2	1-2
3	1-2
4--42	4--42 respectively -- identical except independent claim 1
43	45 -- identical except independent claim 1
44	46 -- identical except independent claim 1
45	43 -- identical except independent claim 1

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46	44 -- identical except independent claim 1
47--50, 52	47-50, 52 respectively -- identical except independent claim 1
51	51 -- identical except for limitations of independent claim 1 and that pending claim 51 claims at least one of a group of species, while US 6746180 claims at least two of the same group of species. "At least two" includes "at least one".
53	53 -- identical except for limitations of independent claim 1 and that pending claim 53 claims "at least one" of a group of species, while US 6746180 claims at least two of the same group of species. "At least two" includes "at least one".

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-53 would be allowed if applicant overcomes the double patenting rejection above.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Applicant is clear that the method steps occur in the sequential order claimed, and that a chelator of a transition metal and a soluble transition metal react in situ to form the transition metal:chelator complex used in the chemical oxidation step, performed in the neutral pH range (pH about 7).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive in light of the amendment to claim 1. The rejection of claims 1-53 has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
6. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

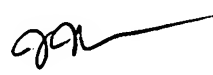
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Katherine W Mitchell whose telephone number is 703-305-6713. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs 10 AM - 8 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on 703-306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Katherine W Mitchell
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3677

Kwm
12/9/2004


JJ Swann
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